

NEWSLETTER

March 2020

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Bud Russo To Talk About N.M. Connections

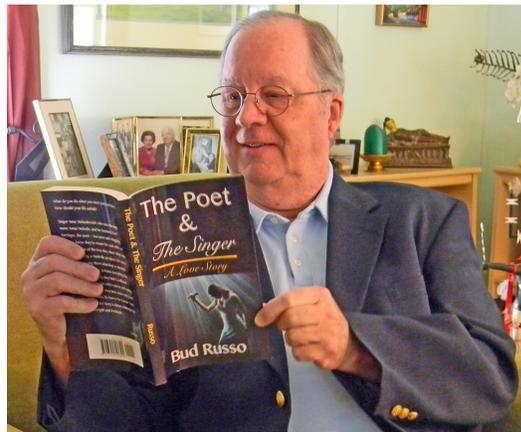
Bud Russo will speak on March 19 about “Six Degrees of Separation—New Mexico Style” According to Russo, the talk grew out of his extensive work on New Mexico Mile Markers. Along with business partner Cheryl Fallstead, he created 780 New Mexico Mile Marker radio stories that aired daily on public radio across the state.

He said, “I found it difficult to believe in a state of 122,000 square miles how many people seemed to know each other and be involved in each other’s lives. In the time period of this talk, we’re talking about 100,000 people in the entire state. Equally distributed, they were more than a square mile from each other. Of course, they weren’t equally distributed, which is why they were in constant contact. Still!!!!”

Russo is an award-winning writer who came to New Mexico as a student in the 1960s. When he graduated from New Mexico

State University, he wrote about manufacturing and automation for trade journals for 40 years. Then, he returned to New Mexico to retire. His retirement was quite short.

Since 2005, he has written nearly 300 travel features for local newspapers and magazines. He has self-published two novels. *Running Free* is a story about reintroducing



wolves to Yellowstone, which won first place for young adult fiction in the creative competition of the National Federation of Press Women. *The Poet and The Singer*, a love story, was a finalist in the Arizona-New Mexico Book Awards. His latest book, *Heroes and Villains of New Mexico*,

is a collection of true stories of historic New Mexicans.

As usual, the meeting will be at the Good Samaritan auditorium at 7 p.m. The hall is at 3011 Buena Vida Circle. The lecture is free and open to the public.

One Of Golf’s All-Time Greats Dies - Played Here In 64

Mickey Wright, one of professional golf’s greatest players, male or female, died recently. She gets a note here because she led professional women to Las Cruces in 1964 for the first Las Cruces Open. The event was held at the Las Cruces Country Club for three straight years - the women used the Trost and Trost clubhouse that DACHS is trying to save from demolition. The LPGA was still young and the women did a lot to promote each tournament. In this photo, Wright is standing on the display V-2 rocket at White Sands Missile Range, preparing to “blast” a tee shot. At this point in 1964, she had entered 19 events and won nine of them.



Pat Garrett Western Festival Draws Hundreds To Rio Grande

Karla Steen, left, made her singing debut at the Garrett Festival, performing with Dan Crow's group. Crow and his fellow musicians started the festival with "Sing the Legend" performing numerous historic Western songs. From left to right, after Karla, are: John Wood, Dan Crow, Ash Soular and Don Kinghorn.

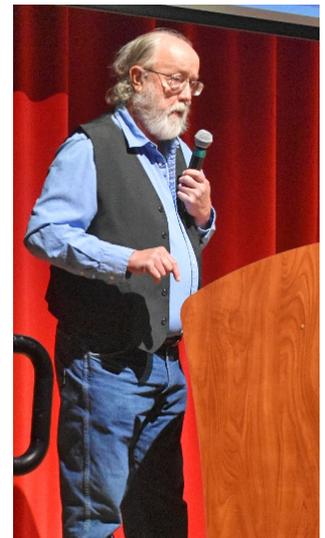
During the "Fountain Murder Trial: A Dramatic Reenactment," which followed later in the day, Karla played the floozy Mrs. Eva Taylor, a witness for the prosecution. Or was she? John played prosecuting attorney Thomas Catron.

For the play, author David Thomas took two weeks of trial testimony and boiled it down to one hour. At the end of the 1899 trial, Oliver Lee was found innocent. For the play, David had a jury sitting in the front row of the theater. That group also found Lee innocent. Bill Cavaliere, a retired lawman who played Lee, seemed much relieved. Photo by Bob Gamboa.



After the reenactment of the murder trial of Oliver Lee, Karl Laumbach gave a talk about what he has learned in investigating the disappearance of Albert and Henry Fountain. Karl has been chasing leads for decades and said there are places on White Sands Missile Range that still need to be investigated.

Also, part of his lecture was on the work done by Human Systems Research at the Oliver Lee Dog Canyon Ranch. Photo by Bob Gamboa.



One thing that made the Festival special was all the Garrett family members who travelled from Shreveport and Monroe, La.; Owensboro, Ky.; Davis and San Diego, Calif., to not only attend but to participate. From left to right are: Richie Garrett, Cathy Moore, Mark Garrett, John Sutton, Mark Moore (played Pat Garrett in the reenactment) and Scott Davis. Photo by Bob Gamboa

Genealogical Society Meets

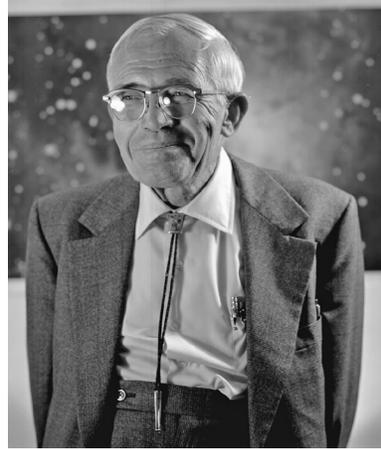
The March meeting of the Doña Ana County Genealogical Society will be on Wednesday, March 11 at 2 p.m. at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library on the 2nd floor Roadrunner Room. Founding member, Frankie Lerner will help attendees learn genealogy facts with lots of "FUN" with a genealogy word games and prizes for winners. Learn about abbreviations that are used in the different genealogy documents we access. All the words will come from the letters D, A, C, G, or S. For example: D = died, A = acre, C = count, G = generation, and S = son. Bring your thinking cap.

Tombaugh Event Draws Big Crowd At NMSU

On Wednesday, February 26, the NMSU Library paid tribute to a Las Cruces legend and his amazing discovery that took place 90 years ago. Most people in our area know Clyde Tombaugh as the discoverer of the planet Pluto, but his achievements went far beyond this one event. The library put together a panel of experts to highlight Tombaugh's life and work and to commemorate the February 18, 1930 discovery that made Tombaugh's name a household word almost overnight.

DACHS president, and head of Archives at the NMSU Library, Dennis Daily and his colleague Tiffany Schirmer talked about the vast collection of Clyde Tombaugh's papers held by the library. These include about 150 linear feet of papers, ranging from personal and professional correspondence, academic research files, speeches, information about telescopes and optics (Tombaugh was a renowned telescope builder), papers that cover his work at the White Sands Proving Grounds, and tens of thousands of photographs and negatives. Much of this material has been digitized by the library and is available on their digital collections site - <http://content-dm.nmsu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/Ms0407>

On display at the event was fascinating correspondence between Tombaugh and family members, exchanged at the time he made the Pluto discovery. The correspondence demonstrates that even in light



A portrait of Clyde Tombaugh from the NMSU Library you don't see much.

of his momentous discovery, Tombaugh, just 23 years old, was at heart a wide-eyed Kansas farm boy. Also on display was an 8x10-inch glass photographic plate Tombaugh made from the original photographic discovery negative. Written in small letters on the plate, in Tombaugh's hand, is "Planet X, photographed Jan. 23, 1930." A small arrow points to an inconspicuous point of light in the star field.

Also at the event were Alden Tombaugh, Clyde's son, who talked about family life for the Tombaughs, their coming to Las Cruces and Tombaugh's work at the White Sands Proving Grounds. Kevin Schindler, historian from the Lowell Observatory, told the incredible story of Tombaugh's discovery of Pluto and the impact it made at the time. Kurt Anderson and Lyle Huber, of the NMSU astronomy department, talked about their personal experiences working with Tombaugh at the university.

GoFundMe Site Established For The Picacho Cemetery

The stone pillars are done and the chain has been strung to form a barrier on the street side of the Picacho Cemetery we own. Most of that was paid for using a grant from the Historical Society of New Mexico. Sally Kading, project leader, had to purchase the chain herself. That and many other expenses have led to the creation of a DACHS GoFundMe site to raise funds to finish fixing the cemetery so it can be returned to the community this year.

There is a more thorough list on the GoFundMe site. **Please consider donating** - it is a lot easier than digging, raking, pulling weeds and cutting out mesquite. To donate, you can simply go to GoFundMe.com and enter Picacho, NM in the search box. Or you can copy and paste this

URL: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/cemetery-takes-on-new-life?teamInvite=cI10NmFhaDej292HosWg4dZE89AEJdtg2T5JtdlgimpXQebrbEJ8MaLBcVAD-7ABt>



Caption This.....

Here is a contest for you all. Provide a humorous or inspirational or informational caption for this photo I found in the Library of Congress. As you can see I've already claimed one obvious caption. Just email the text of your submission to me at: nebraska1950@comcast.net and we'll think of some sort of really neat prize for the best of the lot.

By the way, "really neat" does not mean expensive or valuable. :-)

I think young people call these "memes."



DOÑA ANA COUNTY National Forest

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